



Vol. 2, Issue 4, April 2019

# IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford

Lt. Governor

Colonel William Pallozzi

Superintendent

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## Maryland State Police Adds 36 New Members To The Ranks Of 'Maryland's Finest'

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) — The Maryland State Police became 36 members stronger following the graduation of the 148th Trooper Candidate Academy Class at LifePoint Church in Reisterstown, Maryland.

The trooper candidates endured 27 weeks of rigorous training in a residential police academy that demanded their very best at all times. After graduation, each trooper began their required eight weeks of additional field training to complete with an experienced trooper before they are able to patrol alone. Families, friends and fellow members of the Maryland State Police and other law enforcement agencies were present

at the graduation ceremony, which was presided over by Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. William Pallozzi and Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford.

This class included eight military veterans, five MSP cadets, 19 college graduates and four who are following in the footsteps of family members in a law enforcement career.

As a class, they participated in the 2019 Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge and won the award for the most successful fundraising among police academies, raising over \$15,000 for Special Olympics Maryland.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## PHOTOS: 148th Trooper Candidate Academy Class Graduation



The member of Class 148 stand for their last inspection before graduation as Col. William Pallozzi conducts the Superintendent's inspection.



The president of Class 148, Trooper Jacob Rideout, gives his address during graduation. Trooper Rideout was a U.S. Marine who served multiple combat tours before serving as a Caroline County deputy sheriff for six years. He is now a Maryland state trooper.



Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford congratulated the members of Class 148 and thanked them for their commitment to serve the people of Maryland.



The members of Class 148 arrive for the graduation ceremony at LifePoint Church in Reisterstown, Maryland.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Third Generation Trooper Overcomes The Odds

*Trooper Harper does not let cerebral palsy stop him from pursuing dreams*

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) – On March 22, 2019, then-Trooper Candidate Derek Harper, 21, a proud member of the Maryland State Police Academy Class 148, walked across the stage to meet his father, who pinned a gold badge to his uniform and officially welcomed him as a third-generation Maryland state trooper. As Sergeant David Harper, a 28-year veteran of the Maryland State Police, recently reflected on his son's life and career choice, it was difficult for him to contain his pride, admiration and amazement at the challenges his son has overcome to reach his goal of becoming a Maryland state trooper.

At the age of three, now-Trooper Derek Harper was diagnosed with cerebral palsy that most affected his legs. This began a series of visits to orthopedic specialists and endless physical therapy sessions and visits to Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. He received shots in his legs. He was fitted with leg braces to assist with his balance and gait that



he wore from age three through middle school. In 2007, Derek had major surgery on his legs. His legs were in casts for six weeks.

Regardless of the obstacles, Derek's parents, David and Sandy, never stopped him from attempting anything. Derek played T-ball and soccer. He even ran cross country in elementary school, despite the braces. He participated in Cub Scouts and helped his Washington County elementary school's Destination Imagination team win regional tournaments. Derek joined the Civil Air Patrol as a teenager. He wanted to be a drummer like his father, so he

joined the band and was a member of his high school marching band. During his summers, Derek attended a boot camp type program run by military and police officers in Pennsylvania that focused on law enforcement, where he won the award for top cadet in his class. He attended Washington County Technical High School during his junior and senior years, where he excelled in the criminal justice program.

Sgt. Harper said he never once told Derek he wanted him to become a Maryland state trooper.

(See TROOPER, page 4)

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## TROOPER: Follows footsteps of father, grandfather

He said his son first indicated he might want to follow in his father and grandfather's career choice when he was in middle school.

When he graduated from high school in 2016, Derek passed the physical fitness test and background check and was hired as a Maryland State Police cadet. He was assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division New Market scale house. State Police cadets endure regular physical fitness tests. Derek passed them all.

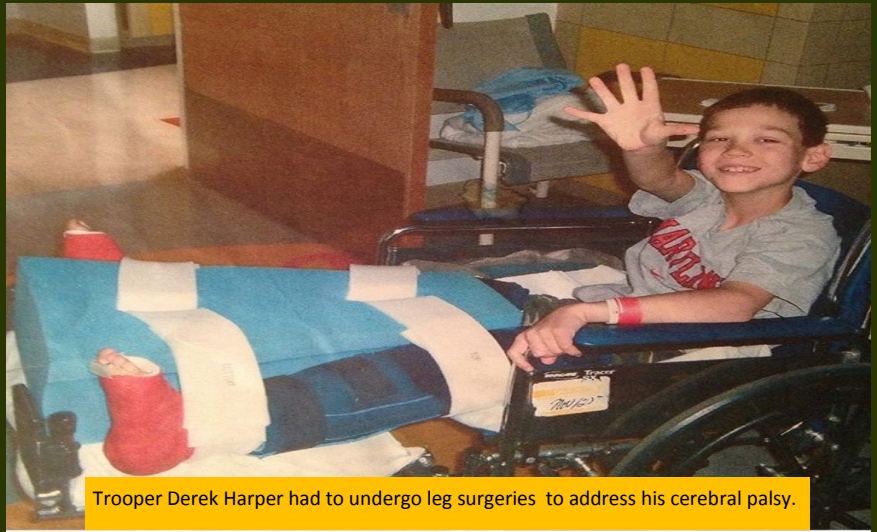
In September 2018, Derek became a member of the 148th Maryland State Police Trooper Candidate Class. He has endured the rigors of a six-month residential police training academy that is known as one of the toughest in the country. He enrolled in the concurrent degree program with Frederick Community College and will complete his Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice soon after his graduation from the Academy. He has endured the mental, physical and emotional challenges this intense training has presented him with. He has overcome each one.

Sgt. Harper said in 21 years, Derek has never once said, "I can't do

that." He said Derek has had a 'laser focus' on his goal of becoming a Maryland state trooper.

Like everyone else, David and Sandy Harper know law enforcement is not a popular profession these days. Growing up, Derek had a front-row seat to see the negative aspects of the Maryland State Police careers of both his father and grandfather. Being a concerned dad, Sgt. Harper asked his son if he was sure this is what he really wanted to do. Without hesitation Derek responded, "Dad, if I don't, who will?"

Derek was hesitant to have his story publicized. He wants the focus to be on the members of Class 148 and what they have accomplished



Trooper Derek Harper had to undergo leg surgeries to address his cerebral palsy.

together during their training to become Maryland state troopers. Yet, he admits he was influenced by the story of Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer John Quinn and knows his personal story may help influence someone else.

Despite his leg braces, Derek ran cross country in elementary school. He and his mother still run 5K races together. But regardless of how many races he has run, he has never hoisted the winner's trophy.

Trooper Derek Harper crossed a finish line and received the award he has always wanted when his dad proudly pinned his badge on his uniform as he became an official member of "Maryland's finest."

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Fugitive Warrant Effort Leads To Multi-State Operation, 41 Arrests In Salisbury

### Safety Tip of the Month

Every driver and passenger in Maryland must wear a seat belt. Children under the age of 8 must ride in a proper booster or child safety seat. More than 120 unbelted drivers and passengers are killed every year in Maryland. Seat belts could have saved roughly 45 percent of those victims. A driver or passenger police see not buckled can be fined \$83.



(SALISBURY, MD) - Maryland State Police, in partnership with the Salisbury Police Department, assisted in the arrest of more than three dozen people, including nearly a dozen gang members, as part of a multi-state effort to reduce the amount of active fugitive warrants in Wicomico County.

As part of “Operation Hide and Seek,” the Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit, along with allied law enforcement agencies in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, planned, coordinated and implemented a plan to locate and apprehend suspects who had open arrest warrants issued through the Salisbury Police Department.

The operation focused on gathering information and identifying criminal gang members and suspects of open criminal investigations. “Operation

Hide and Seek” was conducted on Feb. 20 and resulted in 41 arrests, 11 of which had ties to organized gangs and 13 of whom had out-of-state connections.



The following law-enforcement partners assisted Maryland State Police with “Operation Hide and Seek:” Virginia State Police, Delaware State Police, Maryland Division of Correction, Federalsburg Police Department, Cambridge Police Department, Hurlock Police Department, Fruitland Police Department, Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and the Accomack County Sheriff’s Office.

This investigation was made possible in part due to funds provided by the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), which supports the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN).

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# IMPACT UPDATE



First Sgt. Jonathan Hill recently taught an active assailant response course to employees at WJZ-TV.

## MSP Named Semifinalist For National Safety Award

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) — The National Safety Council announced the Maryland State Police is a semifinalist for the 2019 Green Cross for Safety Awards, given annually to individuals and organizations that have demonstrated safety and excellence in workplaces, in homes and communities, and on the road.

Congratulations to the Maryland State Police Professional Development Unit and First Sergeant Jonathan Hill (pictured) for their hard work in creating a statewide model that has trained over 5,000 police officers and nearly 10,000 civilians across the mid-Atlantic region in active assailant response protocols. Maryland State Police train citizens year round and across the state in civic organizations, churches, schools and other groups in both the public and private sectors.

MSP's Professional Development Unit sought to empower citizens, by "arming" them with the vital information needed to respond effectively in the face of crisis caused by an active assailant attack. Due to the positive evaluations, feedback, and referrals received from across the region, the program has grown by over 105 percent in citizens reached between 2017 and 2018.

"These semifinalists have shown a true commitment to safety and are strong contenders for a Green Cross for Safety Award," said Sarah Van Huis, program manager for awards, scholarships and volunteers at NSC. "They are bringing new ideas and approaches into the workplace and our communities to help eliminate preventable deaths and injuries."

Finalists will be at the 2019 Green Cross for Safety Awards gala on May 16 in Chicago.

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# IMPACT UPDATE



## MADD Recognizes North East Barrack Troopers For Efforts To Combat Impaired Driving

(NORTH EAST, Md.) — Five troopers from the Maryland State Police North East Barrack were recognized recently by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for their work in combatting impaired driving in Cecil County.

For 2018, these troopers combined to make 155 DUI arrests, including 37 from Trooper First Class Adam Siemek, 34 each from Trooper

First Class Sean Koontz and Trooper First Class Charles Tittle, 30 from Trooper First Class Waldys Batista and 20 from Trooper Stephan Turner.

Together those five troopers accounted for more than 42 percent of the DUI arrests in Cecil County in 2018.

This group of troopers is also leading the North East Barrack again so

far in 2019, as they account for more than 46 percent of the barrack's DUI arrests.

The North East Barrack is a full-service barracks which means these troopers are enforcing traffic/DUI laws at an exceptional rate in addition to their responses to 911 calls and other calls for service.

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# IMPACT UPDATE



The Maryland State Police recently welcomed home four pilots who returned from various military deployments. Pictured from left: Superintendent Col. William Pallozzi, pilots Justin Mack, Sean McGinley, Brad Ritzel and Guy Henry and Major Michael Tagliaferri

## MSP Welcomes Home Aviation Command Pilots Following Overseas Military Deployments

(MIDDLE RIVER, Md.) — Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. William Pallozzi welcomed back four Aviation Command pilots who recently returned from military service.

Chief Warrant Officer Three Justin Mack and Chief Warrant Officer Four Sean McGinley served in the Delaware Army National Guard and were UH-60 Black Hawk pilots deployed to the Middle East.

Captain Brad Ritzel served in the Pennsylvania National Guard and was an AH-64 Apache pilot deployed to Afghanistan. Finally, Lieutenant Commander Guy Henry served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and was a SH-60 Seahawk pilot and Air Operations Officer deployed to the Middle East.

Thank you all for your service both in the military and with the Maryland State Police. Welcome home!

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# IMPACT UPDATE



Pictured from left are Salisbury Barrack Commander Lt. Christopher Davala, Salisbury University Honors College Ambassador Megan Lynch and Salisbury Barrack Assistant Commander First Sergeant Michael Rickard.

## MSP and Salisbury University Student Group Work to Stress Education to Area Children

(SALISBURY, Md.) — Members of the Maryland State Police recently helped with a community outreach program hosted by Kappa Delta Pi, the Education Honors Society of Salisbury University.

Megan Lynch, a senior at Salisbury University, an honors college ambassador and Student United Way president, approached the Maryland State Police asking for help in providing a day of learning for the third-grade students from Pinehurst Elementary School in Salisbury.

The elementary school students were set to visit Salisbury University for a tour of campus and an opportunity

to participate in interactive, fun, and engaging educational lessons. Members of the Maryland State Police Salisbury Barrack along with MSP Homicide and MSP Aviation Command Trooper 4 were asked to sign a book with a short note of encouragement in an effort to emphasize the importance of literacy, numeracy and education to every student.

The Maryland State Police Salisbury Barrack and associated units are happy to partner with Salisbury University Education Honors Society in providing encouragement to these students with inspirational words emphasizing the importance of education for their future and for our community.

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# IMPACT UPDATE



## Multi-State Investigation Dismantling Eastern Shore Drug Distribution Operation

CAMBRIDGE, MD) – Law enforcement agencies working together in a multi-state, multi-jurisdictional drug investigation have identified and arrested the alleged leader of a drug importation and distribution operation and are working with prosecutors on the pending indictments of potentially dozens of others associated with the operation.

The following suspects are charged in Delaware by Delaware State Police at this time:

James M. Frazier, 33, of Cambridge, MD and Seaford, DE. Frazier is charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute heroin tier 4, two counts of possession of heroin tier 5, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine tier 4, possession of methamphetamine tier 5, possession with intent to distribute cocaine tier 4, possession of cocaine

tier 5, two counts of possession with intent to distribute marijuana tier 4, two counts of possession of marijuana tier 5, three counts of possession of a firearm by a person prohibited, receiving a stolen firearm, three counts of second degree conspiracy, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held in the Sussex Correctional Institution on \$809,000 bond.

Trivette Jackson, 37, of Federalsburg, MD and Dover, DE. She is charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana tier 4, possession of marijuana tier 5, second degree conspiracy and possession of drug paraphernalia.

(See, **DRUGS** on page 11)

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## DRUGS: Dozens Of More Indictments Possible

Jackson was released on a \$21,000 unsecured bond.

Donisha Holland, 25, of Seaford, DE. Holland is charged with possession with intent to distribute heroin, possession of heroin, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, possession of marijuana, possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, receiving a stolen firearm, second degree conspiracy, and three counts of endangering the welfare of a child. Holland was committed to the Delores J. Baylor Women's Correctional Institution on \$50,500 secured bond.

Beginning in the fall of 2018, the Maryland State Police Heroin Investigative Unit (MSP HIU) in conjunction with the Dorchester County Narcotics Task Force (DCNTF), the Caroline County Drug Task Force (CCDTF), Delaware State Police Sussex County Drug Unit (SCDU), Seaford Police Department (SPD), Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Dorchester and Caroline County State's Attorney's Offices began an investigation into a drug trafficking organization (DTO) responsible for distributing large quantities of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware

and Virginia.

The investigation revealed that James Martell Frazier, a.k.a. "Tellz", "Telly", was the organizer, supervisor, financier, and manager of a major drug trafficking organization. Frazier obtained large quantities of drugs from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which were later redistributed in communities throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. Frazier had been previously identified as the largest illegal drug supplier in the area from prior police drug investigations.

On Feb. 23, the investigation concluded with a coordinated operation that included the service of numerous search and seizure warrants in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and New York.

The following items were recovered during of the course of this investigation:

- More than 5,900 grams of suspected heroin/fentanyl mixture
- More than 1,100 grams of suspected cocaine
- More than 300 grams of suspected crack cocaine
- More than 450 grams of suspected methamphetamine

- More than 74 lbs. of suspected marijuana
- More than 70 methylphenidate (Schedule II) prescription pills
- Five regulated firearms, two of which were reported stolen
- One money counter
- More than \$97,900 in suspected drug-related cash
- Five vehicles with an estimated value of \$140,000

The drugs recovered during this investigation have a total street value of approximately \$1 million. Investigators will be working with prosecutors on the continuing investigation. Charges will be forthcoming on the remaining co-conspirators and criminal associates of Frazier's organization.

Other assisting law enforcement agencies include: Queen Anne's County Drug Task Force, Kent County Narcotics Task Force, Talbot County Narcotics Task Force, Wicomico County Narcotics Task Force, Somerset County Narcotics Task Force, Worcester County Criminal Enforcement Team, Virginia State Police, Eastern Shore Information Center, Drug Enforcement Administration, Delaware State Police.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Maryland State Police Arrest 89 For DUI Over St. Patrick's Day Holiday

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) – Maryland State Police arrested close to 100 people for driving while impaired and issued nearly 1,000 speeding citations over the St. Patrick's Day holiday.

From March 16 to 18, troopers arrested 89 people for driving under the influence, issued 999 speeding citations, 3,039 additional citations and 3,933 warnings and conducted 5,843 traffic stops. State police also investigated 141 crashes, including three that were fatal, and answered 5,189 calls for service over that span.

This effort was due in part to saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints conducted throughout the state police's 23 barracks. The additional enforcement over the weekend was bolstered by impaired driving saturation patrol funds from the Maryland Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office.

The State Police Impaired Driving Reduction Effort Team, otherwise known as the SPIDRE team, also assisted in the effort over the weekend. From March 13 to 17, the SPIDRE team made 10 DUI ar-



rests. Since its inception in May 2013, the SPIDRE team has recorded 2,940 DUI arrests, 137 criminal arrests and 8,955 traffic stops while also issuing 19,808 citations and 4,417 warnings. The goal of the SPIDRE team is to focus on reducing alcohol related crashes in Maryland by targeting areas across the state with high crash rates involving impaired drivers.

According to the Maryland Department of Transportation, 558 people died on Maryland's roads and roughly one-third of those involved impaired driving in 2017.

Impaired drivers injured 3,200 in 2017. All of these deaths and injuries were preventable.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Towson, College of Southern Maryland Students Help Police Put The Brakes On Vehicle Theft

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) – Maryland's Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, in partnership with the Maryland State Police and the Maryland/DC Anti Car Theft Committee, recently presented a combined \$7,350 in scholarship money to college students enrolled at Towson University and the College of Southern Maryland for their winning entries into the eighth annual radio and television PSA competition.

The public service announcement entries, in both the radio and television categories, were required to focus on new trends in auto theft.



Contrary to the belief, auto thieves do not focus solely on new vehicles. Award recipients produced 30-

second spots that are currently being used in a media campaign to reach a target audience who is unfamiliar with the rapidly growing criminal enterprise.

The PSA's are made available to all media for broadcast and can be heard on WBAL 1090 and 98 Rock every morning and afternoon rush hour.

The winning entries can be found online at <https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/OfficeoftheSuperintendent/PSAContest.aspx>.



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